

## NEWS

Detroit, Michigan  
23 January 1978

## Turner target of big guns

# Carter staff bids to oust CIA boss

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WASHINGTON — With tacit support from Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, members of the White House staff, headed by national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, are trying to ease Adm. Stansfield Turner out of his post as director of central intelligence, The Detroit News has learned.

President Carter, the admiral's Annapolis classmate, is reported to be seeking a face-saving solution that would separate Turner from control of the CIA while avoiding the necessity of firing an appointee who, his critics say, has brought the once-disciplined CIA to the brink of mutiny and attracted a mass of unfavorable publicity, much of

it critical of the admiral's style and competence.

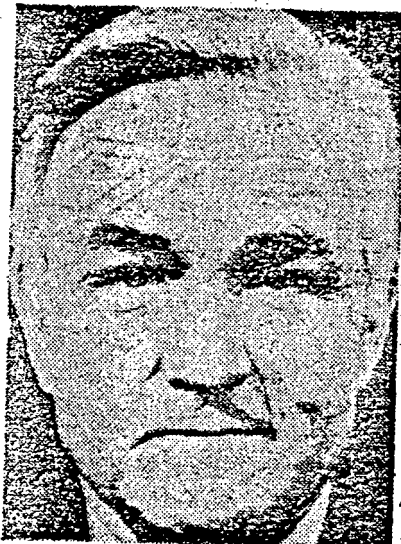
The President, sources also say, hopes he will not have to concede, by openly dismissing Turner, that a major appointment has misfired.

Turner's reported response is that he would be willing to step down quietly if

given a senior military assignment in uniform, either as chief of naval operations or as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

When word of this came to Defense Secretary Harold Brown (who has had major differences with Turner over Turner's attempt to assert control over intelligence operations of the Defense Department), Brown is said to have exclaimed:

"I won't have Turner in this building



—UPI PHOTO

STANSFIELD TURNER

(the Pentagon) in any job."

When he took the top intelligence post, Turner chose the unusual option of retaining his active-duty status and rank in the Navy, even at the cost of forfeiting CIA retirement benefits appreciably more generous than any he could earn in his military rank.

This decision, as well as other indications, led Turner-watchers to conclude that he intended to return to uniform after the CIA job and seek one of the two top military posts.

There would be appreciable opposition to a Turner candidacy for either the joint chiefs chairmanship, senior appointment of the armed forces, or as chief of naval operations.

Besides questions of competency and leadership certain to be raised in view of his stormy passage at the CIA, Turner, a naval officer, would be seeking the Joint Chiefs of Staff job when, in the normal service rotation arrangements, it would be the Army's turn to fill the post.

The Army is said to be indignant also over what one source described as a third Turner counterproposal, that Gen. Alexander Haig be retired from his post as NATO supreme commander and be succeeded by Turner.

Ever since the days of Gen. Eisenhower, this appointment, whose main function is organizing and commanding the air-ground defense of NATO, has been an Army one.

In the Navy, Adm. Turner, a protege of retired Chief of Naval Operations Elmo R. Zumwalt, is unpopular with his contemporaries, many of whom cite Turner's accelerated promotions and brief experience at sea.

One admiral said:

"STAN TURNER IS brilliant in theoretical situations. In a practical situation, he couldn't command a rowboat."

"I can't believe he's got a future in the Pentagon after the way things have gone sour at CIA," said a senior defense official.

One compromise President Carter is reported to be considering would be to move Turner downtown from CIA headquarters at Langley, Va., and allow the admiral to continue, at least in name, as overall intelligence czar while Frank C. Carlucci, recently chosen as deputy director of central intelligence, takes over effective control of the CIA.

The Carlucci appointment, made recently by the White House despite other recommendations by Turner for the No. 2 intelligence job, has been regarded as an attempt to place one of the government's ablest administrators in a key position to rescue what some regard as a faltering CIA.